



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## St Mary's Parish - Maungaturoto - Mangawhai - Wellsford

Saturday Vigil MAUNGATUROTO – Mass 4.00pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays)  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays – Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion: 4.00pm.

Sunday - MANGAWHAI: Mass 8.30am (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays).  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Liturgy of Word Holy Communion: 8.30am.

WELLSFORD: Mass 10.30am every Sunday  
Tues 9.00am & Fri 11.30am Eucharistic Adoration Fri 10.45-11.20am

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time (b) – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 the Season of Creation: Week 2 / Social Justice Week

Isaiah 35:4-7

Psalm 146:5-10

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

### *the Season of Creation continues*

The account of Jesus' healing a deaf-mute serves to introduce the caring theme; our task to contribute to healing all God's creation as we continue the Season of Creation.

Jesus may still have been among a predominantly pagan audience when a deaf-mute, who may have been a pagan also, is brought to him for healing. In spite of trying to keep his practise low-key, Jesus continues to create a sort of '*magnetic field*' – by which outsiders, foreigners, women, pagans, the common people and the sick, seem to be irresistibly drawn to him. It seems that's enough only to be in touch with Jesus' energy to receive a kind of discharge of power.

Faced with the chosen people who have become deaf to his preaching, Jesus has gone over to pagan territory. He comes to open eyes that are blind and to unstop ears that were deaf. He challenges the minds and the self-sufficiency of the rich, the powerful and the proud.

Each time this gospel is proclaimed, Jesus takes issue with our own complacency and self-centeredness. To all of us, he commands: '*Be opened*'.

Today the apostle James reminds us that God chooses the poor of the world, to the rich. This reminder echoes throughout Christian history. Most recently raised in Pope Francis's call in *Laudato Sí*, to listen to the Cry of the Poor and the Cry of Earth. The poor are often the first to suffer and, in their suffering, to reveal the injustices and unsustainable ways of living of our societies.

Responding to the Cry of the Poor calls us to promote eco-justice and to defend human life and all forms of life on Earth. Pope Francis has often spoken of the wisdom and faith of indigenous peoples and the poor, as rich resources for learning to live sustainably on Earth and contribute to its healing restoration.

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*Urging believers not to "remain deaf and dumb in the face of the suffering of people marked by disease, anguish and difficulty", the Pope said in today's world too often the sick and the suffering are seen as a problem, "while they should be an opportunity to show the concern and solidarity of society towards the weakest". The Pope said that we too can repeat that miracle by becoming protagonists of that special word: "Ephphatha" - "Be open" with which He restored speech and hearing to the deaf and dumb man.*

**The Season of Creation 2024** has the theme: '*Hope and act with Creation*'. The season extends from 1st September (the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (the feast of St. Francis of Assisi). The latter date marks the beginning of the Second session of the Synod on Synodality in Rome. The designated Lectionary readings, for the five Sundays of the season, can be read with '*ecological eyes*'. With the world's current environment crisis there's a pastoral need to address the crisis in prayer. Sunday worship is the common way we Catholics come to know and experience God's will.

Today also marks the beginning of **Social Justice Week**, which challenges us, as disciples of Jesus, to open our minds eyes to the injustice of unsustainable ways of living, which impact especially on the poor. The guiding theme of the Season of Creation; '*to hope and Act with Creation*', is at one with the objective of Social Justice Week.

### **Caritas' Social Justice Week 2024 8-14 September.**

This year's theme is '*Choose forgiveness, know peace. / Kōwhiria te murunga hara, kia mōhio ki te rangimārie*'. Join Catholic parishes and schools across New Zealand in exploring how we can give effect to peace and forgiveness in our lives! You can view our special resources, including prayers and a liturgy guide [www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week](http://www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week)

### **One Day Retreat for Men**

Is the Lord challenging you to draw closer to Him? If the answer is **YES!** then we have an amazing opportunity for you....**A One-day Men's Retreat** with our **Bishop Steve Lowe**, titled "**He Emptied Himself**" (Philippians 2:7), will be held on **Saturday 19 October (8am-4pm)** at St Thomas More Church, 336 Wairau Rd, Glenfield.

This day will be a special time of formation, prayer, worship, fellowship and will end with Mass celebrated by Bishop Steve. Bring a packed lunch or buy from the local shops. Suggested Koha of \$20 to cover costs. All men are welcome. Contact Greg Sullivan (021) 437747 or Russell Sobotker (022) 0345678 to register.

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland promotes for strong and inclusive communities for missionary discipleship. Come to the **Ethnic Chaplaincies Rise Up and Shine Festival** to be held on **Saturday 21 September to Sunday 22 September** | at the Malaeola Samoan Catholic Community Centre |16 Waokauri Place, Mangere | A time of celebration with Food, Music, and Cultural Shows on Saturday 9am - 3pm, and Thanksgiving Mass in the various languages and culture on Sunday at 1pm. Be involved, Be there.

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

There will be one Mass only for the whole parish during that weekend. Mass will be at **Wellsford Sunday 29 September at 10.30am**. Please bring a small plate of food to share at morning tea after Mass.

## YOUR VOICE MATTERS – The Slippery Slope of Euthanasia

Almost three years ago, the New Zealand Parliament passed the euphemistically titled – End of Life Choice Act (EOLC Act). This made legal both euthanasia and physician assisted suicide (PAS) in New Zealand. Since then, hundreds of New Zealanders have ended their lives prematurely through the use of lethal drugs (note, we don't call such death causing drugs medicine!)

Now the government is reviewing the law. The review has been structured into two parts. The first is for the Ministry of Health to review the operation of the Act. The second is seeking the public's feedback.

The review by the Ministry of Health is designed to expand euthanasia / PAS in New Zealand. They are only talking to select people and appear to have a starting point that the law is working well, so it is just about how to 'improve things'. Your public feedback remains important as the answers will be collated and made available to all MPs when a new law is proposed. We expect the likes of the ACT Party and others to push for an expansion of the law, putting even more vulnerable New Zealanders at risk.

The questionnaire is easy to access and use, with fifteen questions and CLOSES at 5pm on Thursday 26 September 2024. You can access the questionnaire

here: <https://consult.health.govt.nz/regulatory-policy/public-consultation-for-the-review-of-the-end-of-l/consultation/intro/>

<p><b><i>A Prayer for Our Earth</i></b>  <i>All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.</i></p>	<p><i>Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.</i></p> <p><i>Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.</i></p> <p><i>Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.</i></p> <p><i>We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.</i></p>
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<b>Wellsford Roster</b>			
	<b>Sunday 8 Sept</b>	<b>Sunday 15 Sept</b>	<b>Sunday 22 Sept</b>
<i>Min/s of Word</i>	Colleen Williams, Ken Hancock	Maureen Hancock, Lagi Sands	Mike Harris, Gay Pride
<i>Intercessions</i>	Ken	Maureen	Gay
<i>Minister of Eucharist</i>	Maureen Hancock	Eranga Amarasekara	Uraura Unaia
<i>Morning Tea</i>	Marie	Maureen	Lynette & Mike
<i>Church Cleaning</i>	Gay & Mary Rose		Marie
<i>Leader</i>	Marie	Ken	Maureen

## Prayer intentions for the week

### **For the cry of the Earth**

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

### **Prayers for our Sick:**

*Petronella ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Tina Mehary, Sheita Mehary, Pamela Downes, Petronella Brom, Lorna Boccock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Maureen Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters, Teresa McCarthy, Tom Ryan, Jayden Wilson, Kathy Brockliss (Hokianga), Emelia Brockliss (Mexico) Lee McCarthy, . . . .*

*Trevor Brijevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Adolph Layec ....*

*Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, Caroline Milner, Theresa Graham.....*

### **Prayers for the Dead:**

For the dead: *Bishop Dennis Browne and Kingi Tuheitia*; And for the death anniversaries of: *Archibald Armstrong (8<sup>th</sup>), Erin Gill (9<sup>th</sup>), Jac Brom (9<sup>th</sup>), Marie McSweeney (9<sup>th</sup>), Mary Brien (10<sup>th</sup>), Anthony Browne (12<sup>th</sup>).*

## Readings: 23<sup>rd</sup> Week Ordinary Time

### **Monday 9 September**

1Corinthians 5:1-8 Ps.5  
Luke 6:6-11

### **Tuesday 10 September**

1Corinthians 6:1-11 Ps.149  
Luke 6:12-19

### **Wednesday 11 September**

1Corinthians 7:25-31 Ps.45B  
Luke 6:20-26

### **Thursday 12 September**

1Corinthians 8:1-7,11-13 Ps.139  
Luke 6:27-38

### **Friday 13 September** St John Chrysostom

1Corinthians 9:16-19,22-27 Ps.84  
Luke 6:39-42

### **Saturday 14 September** Exaltation of the Holy Cross

1. Numbers 21:4-9 Ps.78
2. Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17

### **Sunday 15 September** 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

1. Isaiah 50:5-9 Ps.116A
2. James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

## **St Mary's Parish**

### ***Mangawhai - Maungaturoto - Wellsford***

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BNZ account 02-0108-0707411-00

### **Reconciliations:**

**Wellsford: Sat. 8.30 – 8.55am Maungaturoto: Sat. 3.30 – 3.55pm.**

**Mangawhai: Sun: 8.00 – 8.25am**